



NEWS
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2009

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**SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND TAVIS SMILEY
TO HOST THE 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
THE STATE OF THE BLACK UNION**

WHO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Tavis Smiley to host the kick-off of the 10th Anniversary of the State of the Black Union.

WHAT: In recognition of the 10th Anniversary of the State of the Black Union, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will kick-off the annual symposium of national dialogue by honoring Eighth & Wall Incorporation's documentary presentation the *Eastsiders* – a celebration of the Eastside of Los Angeles from 1920 to 1965.

Eighth & Wall is a non-profit corporation who presents the history of people and cultures of Los Angeles through, art, literature and the media.

The story of the *Eastsiders* is that of a multi-cultural make up of residents who once flourished the Central Avenue Corridor. The cast is comprised of those who actually lived and experienced the cultural background first-hand.

Some of the *Eastsiders* being honored at Thursday's event are, Retired Judge William C. Beverly, Jr., *The Eastsiders* Producer; Walter L. Gordon, Jr., considered the Godfather of Black history and the oldest cast member at 101 years old; Rita Walters, the first African American female member of the Board of Education and the Los Angeles City Council (9th District); and renowned saxophonist, William "Buddy" Collette. The first African American musician to perform on television.

The State of the Black Union event, returning to the Los Angeles location of its first symposium, will be held Saturday, February 28, 2009. Featured will be two panel discussions from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Tavis Smiley and attorney Raymond Brown will moderate the discussions that will broadcast live on C-SPAN.

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will be presenting the opening remarks at Saturday's event.

WHEN: Thursday, February 26, 2009, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

WHERE: Natural History Museum
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007